

CATALOGUE NO. 1307.1

EMBARGO: 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) FRI 30 MAY 1997

**ECONOMIC INDICATORS, NEW SOUTH WALES
MAY 1997**

EMPLOYMENT	The seasonally adjusted number of employed persons in NSW was 2,826,200 in April 1997, an increase of 0.5% on the previous month. Nationally, employment rose by 0.4% over the same period.
UNEMPLOYMENT	The seasonally adjusted number of unemployed persons in NSW was 248,200 in April 1997, a rise of 3.1% on the previous month, but a fall of 1.0% on April 1996. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in April 1997 was 8.1% in NSW and 8.7% nationally.
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS	In seasonally adjusted terms, new motor vehicle registrations in NSW increased by 1.8% from 20,232 in February 1997 to 20,602 in March 1997.
BUILDING APPROVALS	The seasonally adjusted number of new dwelling units approved in NSW in March 1997 was 4,191, a rise of 2.8% on the previous month and 25.2% on March 1996.
FINANCE	The value of housing finance commitments for owner occupation in NSW in March 1997 increased by 12.1% from February 1997 and 13.9% from March 1996.

NOTES

This publication provides information on a wide range of economic indicators which are the latest available at the time of publication. In a number of cases, figures appearing in this summary are preliminary and are subject to revision in subsequent issues.

For detailed explanatory notes and definitions for the items shown in this publication, readers are referred to the specific ABS publications.

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Gregory W. Bray
Regional Director
New South Wales

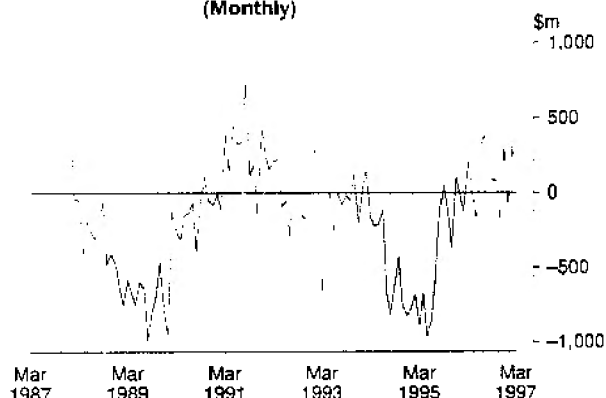
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- INQUIRIES:
- for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Bill Markham on Sydney (02) 9268 4376 or any ABS office.
 - for information about other ABS statistics and services please contact Information Services on Sydney (02) 9268 4611 or any ABS office.
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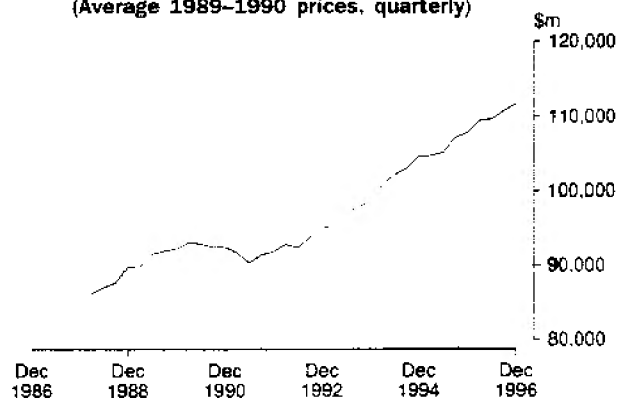
NATIONAL ECONOMY

Indicator	Unit	Latest period	Change over prior period	Change over year			
National accounts percentage change, average 1989-90 prices, (seasonally adjusted)—							
Gross non-farm product	%	Dec qtr 96	0.8	3.4			
Gross domestic product	%	Dec qtr 96	0.8	3.7			
Figures for preceding periods							
Indicator	Unit	Latest period	Latest figure	One period ago	Two periods ago	Three periods ago	Figure one year ago
Balance of payments—							
Merchandise exports (seasonally adjusted)	\$m	Mar 97	6 333	6 950	6 573	6 539	6 386
Merchandise imports (seasonally adjusted)	\$m	Mar 97	-6 559	-6 888	-6 791	-6 419	-6 325
Balance on merchandise trade (seasonally adjusted)	\$m	Mar 97	-226	62	-218	120	61
Balance on goods and services (seasonally adjusted)	\$m	Mar 97	-103	315	-75	301	203
Balance on current account	\$m	Dec 96	-876	-1 777	-2 346	-2 183	-743
Balance on current account (seasonally adjusted)	\$m	Dec 96	-1 408	-1 893	-1 674	-1 636	-1 783
Terms of trade for goods and services—							
Index (seasonally adjusted)	1989-90 =100	Dec qtr 96	98.6	97.9	97.9	96.0	93.8
Exchange Rates period average—							
SUS/SA		Mar 97	0.7888	0.7670	0.7791	0.7979	0.7714
Trade weighted index of value SA	May 1970 =100	Mar 97	60.6	58.7	58.5	59.2	56.2
Indicator Lending Rate—							
Bank loans to large businesses (Source: Reserve Bank)	%	Mar 97	9.30	9.30	9.30	9.55	10.75

BALANCE ON GOODS AND SERVICES, AUSTRALIA
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(Monthly)



GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT, AUSTRALIA
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(Average 1989-1990 prices, quarterly)

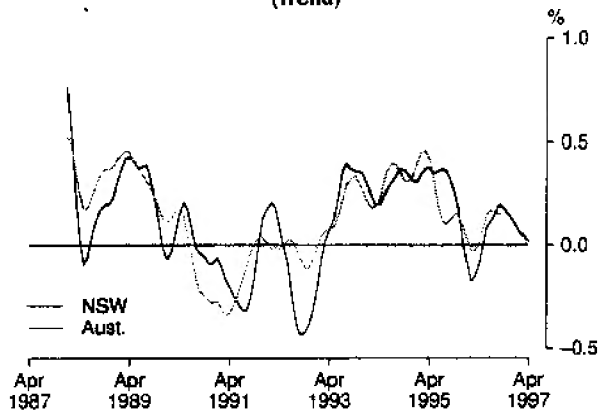


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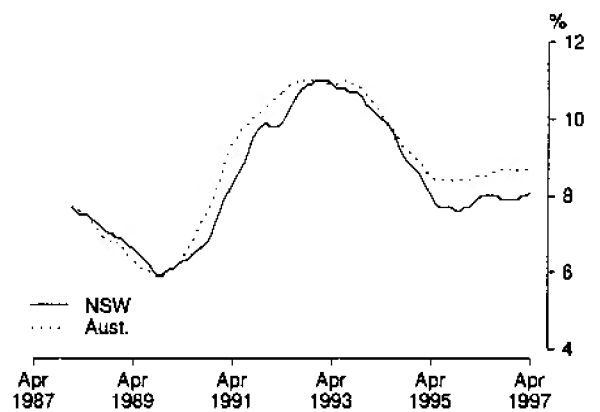
NEW SOUTH WALES IN RELATION TO OTHER STATES AND AUSTRALIA

Indicator	Latest period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	Aust.
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	Apr 97	8.1	9.1	9.5	9.7	7.4	10.8	8.7
Percentage change from previous year—								
Employed persons	Apr 97	1.9	1.5	1.8	-0.1	2.9	-3.7	1.6
Consumer price index: all groups	Mar qtr 97	1.3	1.5	1.6	0.8	0.9	1.5	1.3
Average weekly employee earnings: full-time adult ordinary time (trend estimates)	Feb 97	3.5	4.5	6.3	3.5	1.3	6.1	4.1
Retail turnover (trend estimates)	Mar 97	1.1	8.2	3.3	1.2	2.6	1.3	3.2
New motor vehicle registrations	Mar 97	5.9	3.2	-3.4	-6.2	-11.6	-0.3	0.3
Dwelling units approved	Mar 97	8.7	-12.0	17.6	24.3	-19.0	-24.2	2.5
Value of non-residential building approved	Mar 97	-24.8	-26.2	-8.4	-28.9	58.7	-18.9	-17.5
Value of all buildings approved	Mar 97	-3.9	-11.1	9.2	-11.9	10.1	-14.9	-2.6
Value of engineering construction work done	Dec qtr 96	-6.5	-1.8	7.9	11.8	3.9	-14.0	0.0
Room occupancy rate in licensed hotels and motels etc.	Dec qtr 96	1.3	0.7	-0.8	3.8	-3.1	-3.9	0.3
Actual private new capital expenditure	Dec qtr 96	13.3	27.4	42.5	22.2	-16.3	36.5	15.0

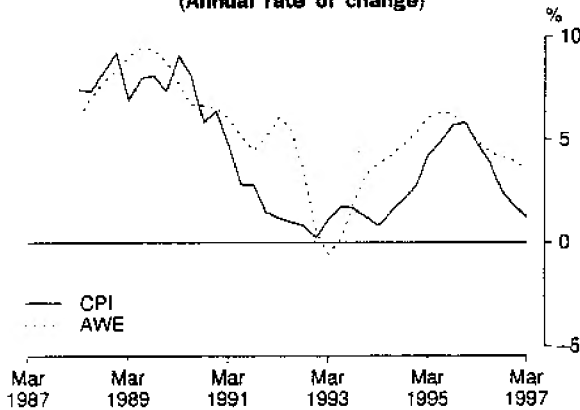
MONTHLY CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED
(Trend)



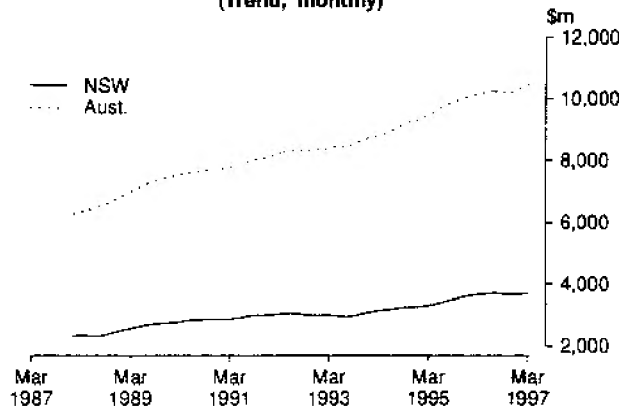
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
(Trend)



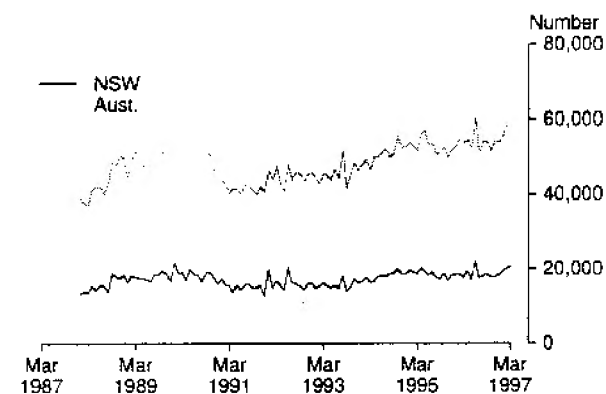
PRICES AND EARNINGS, NSW
(Annual rate of change)



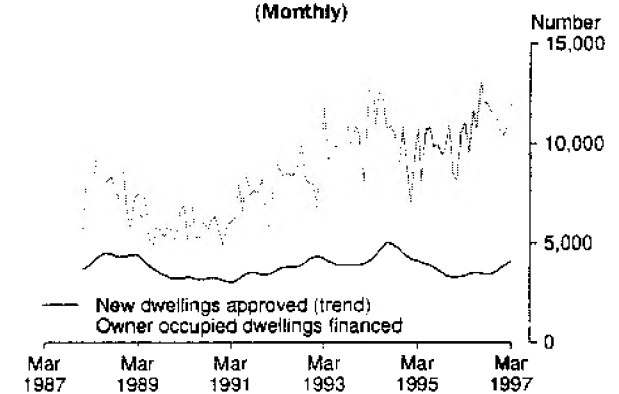
RETAIL TURNOVER
(Trend, monthly)



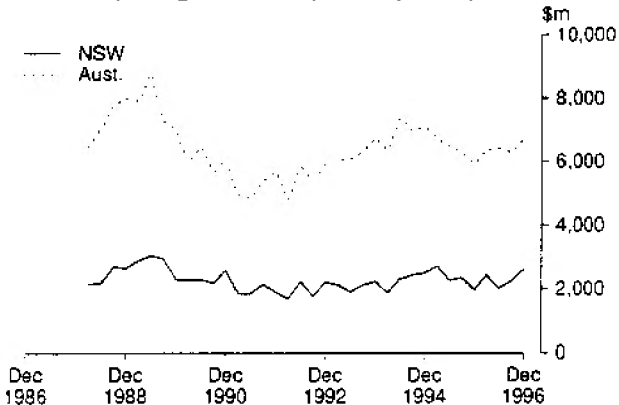
NEW MOTOR VEHICLES REGISTERED
(Monthly)



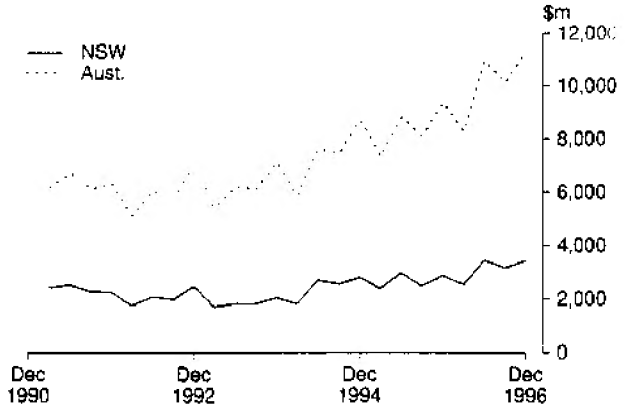
NEW DWELLINGS APPROVED AND HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS, NSW
(Monthly)



VALUE OF ALL BUILDINGS COMMENCED
(Average 1989-90 prices, quarterly)



PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE
(Average 1989-90 prices, quarterly)



Indicator	Unit	Latest period	Latest figure	New South Wales		Australia		
				Change from prior period	Change from same period prior year	Latest figure	Change from prior period	Change from same period prior year
				%	%		%	%
Population								
Estimated resident population	'000	Sep qtr 96	6 208	0.29	1.24	18 349	0.33	1.32
Civilian population aged 15 years and over	'000	Apr 97	4 921	0.11	1.45	14 524	0.12	1.56
Labour Force								
Employed persons—full-time (original series)	'000	Apr 97	2 151	-0.2	1.1	6 244	0.2	0.2
—Total (original series)	'000	Apr 97	2 822	0.2	1.9	8 411	0.2	1.6
—Total (seasonally adjusted)	'000	Apr 97	2 826	0.5	1.9	8 421	0.4	1.6
Unemployed persons—(original series)	'000	Apr 97	244	-5.2	-1.0	800	-5.4	0.8
—(seasonally adjusted)	'000	Apr 97	248	3.1	-1.0	802	-0.1	0.8
Labour force (seasonally adjusted)	'000	Apr 97	3 074	0.7	1.7	9 223	0.4	1.5
Participation rate (seasonally adjusted)	%	Apr 97	62.5	0.6	0.2	63.5	0.3	0.0
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	%	Apr 97	8.1	2.4	-2.7	8.7	-0.5	-0.7
Job vacancies	'000	Feb 97	23	-10.3	-14.6	63	0.5	-2.1
Weekly paid overtime per employee (a)	hours	Feb 97	7.2	-1.6	-1.6	7.1	-0.9	-0.6
Average Weekly Employee Earnings								
Full-time adult ordinary time earnings (trend estimates)	\$	Feb 97	720.70	0.5	3.5	692.90	1.0	4.1
All employees total earnings (trend estimates)	\$	Feb 97	601.20	-0.5	1.3	577.00	0.8	3.1
Industrial Disputes—Working days lost	'000	Jan 97	3.2	-79.3	22.6	23.3	-15.4	16.6
Consumer Price Index, All Groups 1989-90 = 100		Mar qtr 97	120.6	0.2	1.3	120.5	0.2	1.3
Retail Turnover (trend estimates)	\$m	Mar 97	3 705	0.6	1.1	10 490	0.9	3.2
New Motor Vehicle Registrations (seasonally adjusted)	No.	Mar 97	20 602	1.8	16.7	59 345	1.3	10.9
Passenger vehicles (seasonally adjusted)	No.	Mar 97	17 616	1.8	17.4	49 766	1.1	11.6
Other motor vehicles (excl. motor cycles) (seas adj.)	No.	Mar 97	2 986	2.2	13.2	9 579	2.5	7.3
Production								
Clay bricks (seasonally adjusted) (b)	million	Mar 97	48	-6.5	-5.2	123	1.1	5.4
Electricity (seasonally adjusted)	million kWh	Mar 97	5 495	0.9	4.7	14 474	-0.3	2.5
Gas (seasonally adjusted) (b)	terajoules	Mar 97	8 340	-9.4	7.4	51 683	-2.5	-1.3
Overseas Trade								
Imports	\$m	Mar 97	2 653	3.9	-3.1	5 989	-1.4	-4.5
Exports, Australian produce	\$m	Mar 97	1 486	10.5	-6.7	6 308	3.4	-3.8
Tourism								
Overseas visitor short-term arrivals	'000	Feb 97	166	10.5	-3.5	408	19.0	3.9
Resident overseas short-term departures	'000	Feb 97	75	-9.2	5.1	180	-7.3	7.8
Licensed hotels, motels etc. with facilities—								
Guest nights	'000	Dec qtr 96	5 699	3.3	2.2	16 749	3.2	3.5
Room occupancy rate	%	Dec qtr 96	60.9	3.0	1.3	59.9	1.9	0.3
Building								
Approvals—								
Dwelling units (seasonally adjusted)	No.	Mar 97	4 191	2.8	25.2	11 368	-1.8	8.9
Value of new residential building (seasonally adjusted)	\$m	Mar 97	366	-20.8	13.6	1 144	-2.5	19.2
Value of non-residential building	\$m	Mar 97	202	-16.2	-24.8	626	-33.1	-17.5
Value of all building	\$m	Mar 97	649	-10.3	-3.9	1 840	-16.0	-2.6
Commencements—								
New dwelling units	No.	Dec qtr 96	10 229	2.8	10.1	30 435	1.4	1.5
Value of new residential building (c)	\$m	Dec qtr 96	1 084	5.4	19.3	2 993	4.7	7.7
Value of non-residential building (c)	\$m	Dec qtr 96	1 274	29.4	52.1	3 169	9.8	22.7
Value of all building (c)	\$m	Dec qtr 96	2 630	16.6	33.1	6 761	7.6	14.3
Value of work done in period (c)	\$m	Dec qtr 96	2 350	-5.2	-3.1	6 926	3.2	0.2
Engineering Construction								
Private contractors—								
Value of work commenced	\$m	Dec qtr 96	475	-23.3	34.8	2 108	-8.1	21.3
Value of work done	\$m	Dec qtr 96	569	-16.3	-15.7	2 253	-5.9	5.6
Value of work yet to be done	\$m	Dec qtr 96	755	-7.2	-24.7	5 242	-19.0	53.7
Value of work done by public sector	\$m	Dec qtr 96	640	3.2	3.6	1 509	4.8	-7.3
Finance								
Housing finance for owner occupation—secured commitments to individuals by significant lenders	\$m	Mar 97	1 847	12.1	13.9	4 479	5.1	2.1
Personal finance commitments—significant lenders	\$m	Mar 97	990	5.5	13.7	2 949	2.5	11.2
Commercial finance commitments—significant lenders	\$m	Mar 97	5 475	-2.0	-0.3	11 478	5.2	-4.3
Savings balances at end of month—								
All banks (d) (Source: Reserve Bank)	\$m	Feb 97	139 053	0.5	(e)	308 963	0.5	11.1
Building societies	\$m	Feb 97	4 119	0.7	12.3	9 370	0.8	-18.4
Credit unions	\$m	Feb 97	6 380	0.3	8.2	14 548	0.5	8.9
Actual New Fixed Capital Expenditure (f)	\$m	Dec qtr 96	3 473	7.8	13.3	11 430	11.8	15.0
New buildings and structures	\$m	Dec qtr 96	1 026	3.5	23.5	3 832	15.8	17.7
Equipment, plant and machinery	\$m	Dec qtr 96	2 448	9.7	9.5	7 598	9.9	13.7

(a) Average weekly overtime hours for those employees who were paid for overtime. (b) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (c) Average of 1989-90 prices. (d) Average of weekly deposit balances. (e) Not available due to revisions only being done nationally. (f) By private enterprises.



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